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Reflection 3

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Action research refers to research performed by practicing teachers and administrators; in which everyday problems and issues are addressed. Teachers are expected to reflect on their own teaching practices, identify problems, and investigate ways to solve these problems (Diana, 2011). One of the most important characteristics of action research is that the solution found to a problem should be realistic, and should be able to be implemented immediately. Prior to this class, I did not know that teachers were expected to perform research and implement solutions in their own classrooms. My first impression was that it seemed like a great deal of work, and could really be overwhelming. However, after spending the last semester in the classroom, and developing a true passion for teaching, I understand why it is a teacher’s job to research the problems and issues found in his/her classroom. The dedication of a true teacher motivates the teacher to identify the problems hindering their students from learning. This dedication results in the teacher trying out different solutions, and finding which solution is most suitable.

After watching the ARP presentations, I found that each teacher chose a topic they were particularly passionate about. It is this passion behind an issue that drives an educator to dedicate themselves to investigating and solving an issue. Ashley chose to focus on the effects of art therapy, which I thought was the perfect choice. Ashley is a dedicated educator, with a true passion for art. Her expertise in art, will allow Ashley to conduct a thorough investigation on the effects of art therapy. Maria chose to research class size, and the effects of class size on the learning process. I found this to be a very interesting topic, as the success of larger classrooms around the world is a major question for the United States, as we compare our success rates with other countries. Maria, is also a pre-k teacher, in a private school, and has experienced different classroom sizes with very small children. Maria has firsthand experience, as well as motivation, to research this topic.

I personally chose the topic of ESL students because as a new teacher, I am very aware that a large population of my future students will be ESL. In the general education masters program, ESL courses are not offered, or at least not a requirement. I believe that teachers must be prepared on how ESL students learn best, in such a high anxiety environment, surrounded by native English speakers. My topic was chosen out of concern for my future students, as I want to ensure that I give my students the education they deserve, whether they are English-speaking or ESL students.

Action research is performed by teachers out of the love and dedication for their students. The students and their families are affected, as they are participants in the research, and help the teacher to investigate the issues, and solve the problem at hand. The mission statement of the School of Education is, **“**Through collaborative action, teaching, and research, we develop our students’ capacities to create socially just, intellectually vital, aesthetically rich and compassionate communities that value equity and excellence, access and rigor.” By conducting action research, we are doing exactly what mission statement states. We are working collaboratively, and researching, with the ultimate goal of improving our student’s lives. By improving the teaching practices, and gaining a deeper understanding of the learning process, we are preparing our students to succeed in the future, and transforming the children into contributing members of society.

References:

Brooklyn College. (n.d.). *The school of education’s conceptual framework*. Retrieved from <http://schooled.brooklyn.cuny.edu/IR-CF.htm>

Diana, T. (2011). Becoming a Teacher Leader through Action Research. Kappa Delta Pi Record, 47(4), 170-3. Retrieved from Education Full Text database